

Viola

for Jenn, Alisa, Kay and Sarah

John Webber

Suffragette Variations

based on Ethel Smyth's The March of the Women

webbermusic 202403

On the 70th birthday of Kay Alexander for her CMFF quartet
Jenn, Alisa, Kay and Sarah.

"The March of the Women" is a song composed by Ethel Smyth in 1910. It became the official anthem of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and more widely the anthem of the women's suffrage movement.

A famous rendering of the song took place in 1912, at Holloway Prison, where many women activists were imprisoned. The conductor Thomas Beecham visited Ethyl Smyth in prison and reported that he found the activists in the courtyard "...marching round it and singing lustily their war-chant while the composer, beaming approbation from an overlooking upper window, beat time in almost Bacchic frenzy with a toothbrush."

The march was also used during a large demonstration of American suffragists rallying in Washington, D.C., on May 9, 1914. The Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage sent delegates to march up the Capitol building stairs and present a petition to the U.S. Congress. The delegates were accompanied by chorus of more than a thousand.

All movements to be played without pause, i.e. attacca.

All slurs are phrase marks, no bowing intended.

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Theme

Fanfare $\text{♩} = 96$ **6** theme $\text{♩} = 106$

12 pizz. *f* arco *f*

17 pizz. arco *p*

22 pizz. arco *< mf*

27 *< f* *pp* *pp*

mp sub. *ppp*

Variation 1

l'istesso tempo $\text{♩} = 106$

4 *p* *f*

9 *pp*

13 *ff* *pp sub.* rall.....

17 *mf..* *mp*

21 *p* *mf* *pp*

Variation 2

Alla marcia ♩ = 120

1 *p*

6

11

16

22

27 (short) *pp*

Variation 3

Adagio non troppo ♩ = 60

1 *p* *ppp*

12

24 *rall. poco a poco* **2** *pp*

Variation 4

Andante ♩ = 160

7 *f*

14 *pp*

20 *f*

27 *pp* poco rall....

33 *ppp*

Variation 5

Adagietto ♩ = 48

4 *ppp*

9 *mp* *ppp*

12 *mp* *ppp*

15 *mf* rall. (short)

p *pppp*

Variation 6

Adagio $\text{♩} = 48$

(L'Istesso tempo)

Musical score for Variation 6, Viola part. The score consists of six staves of music. The first staff starts with a dynamic of *mp*. The second staff has dynamics of *f* and *mp*. The third staff has dynamics of *pp* and *arco*. The fourth staff has a dynamic of *mf*. The fifth staff has dynamics of *mp*, *p*, *pp*, *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. The sixth staff has a dynamic of *ppp*.

Variation 7

Andante moderato $\text{♩} = 60$

6

Musical score for Variation 7, Viola part. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff has dynamics of *f* and *p*. The second staff has dynamics of *mp* and *p*. The third staff has dynamics of *ff*, *mf*, and *p*. The fourth staff has dynamics of *f*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*, and *ff*.

Variation 8

Eroica $\text{♩} = 90$
($\text{♩} = \text{♩}$)

9

13

17

21

25

ff *p* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Variation 9

Leisurely $\text{♩} = 54$

6

10

14

mf *allarg.* *mp* *p* *pp*

Variation 10

Moderato $\text{♩} = 108$

The musical score for Viola, Variation 10, consists of six staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Moderato with a quarter note equal to 108 beats per minute. The score begins with a dynamic of *f* and includes various articulations such as *pizz.*, *arco*, and *sub.*. Measures 5, 9, and 17 feature triplet patterns. The piece concludes with a *ppp* dynamic in measure 21.

1 *f* *pizz.* *p*

5 *arco* *pizz.*

9 *arco* *< mf*

13 *< f* *pp* *pp* *pizz.*

17 *arco* *allarg.* *mp sub.*

21 *ppp*